

Name: _____

Is It a Fluid?

Record your observations for the Investigator.

Step 1: *Set up.*

- Add about 2 cm of water to your glass.
- Spread out a piece of waxed paper in front of you.
- Half fill your second glass with cornstarch.

Step 2: *Create your mixture.*

- Add cornstarch to your water until it can still be mixed, but it is difficult to move the spoon.
- Observe what appears to happen when you try to stir the mixture.

Is this a fluid? Yes No

Why do you think this?

Step 3: *Investigate ... Is this a fluid?*

- Pour your mixture onto the middle of the waxed paper.

Is this a fluid? Yes No

Why do you think this is so?

- Push the end of the spoon in a straight line SLOWLY through the middle of the mixture.

Is this a fluid? Yes No

Why do you think this is so?

- Push the end of the spoon in a straight line QUICKLY through the middle of the mixture.
Is this a fluid? Yes No
Why do you think this is so?

- Hit the mixture quickly with your open hand (like a slap).
Is this a fluid? Yes No
Why do you think this is so?

- Place your hand slowly onto the top of the mixture.
Is this a fluid? Yes No
Why do you think this is so?

Review the reasons you gave when you identified whether the mixture was a fluid or not.

- Place a checkmark (✓) beside those characteristics that you feel are always present in a fluid.
- Put a question mark (?) beside those characteristics that you feel are sometimes present in a fluid.
- Add an (X) beside those characteristics that you know are never present in a fluid.

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Defining Fluids

1. Categorize the characteristics of fluids you discovered in the Investigator: Is it a Fluid?

Always Present	Sometimes Present	Never Present

2. Use the characteristics listed under “Always Present” to create a definition of a fluid.
3. Use the definition above to determine whether the substances pictured on page 181 are fluids or not.
4. List five additional examples of fluids you have been in contact with today.

